

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 4, 2018

The Honorable Daniel R. Coats  
Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Coats:

We write to request that the Intelligence Community produce an assessment of the risk to the United States and to U.S. interests and personnel arising from the President's tweet on January 2, 2018, in which he wrote the following:

"North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

In particular, we request that the assessment address the likely North Korean response to the President's January 2 tweet and the President's other threatening tweets and statements, and whether this rhetoric serves as a deterrent or a provocation. We also ask the Intelligence Community to assess the impact of the president's message on U.S. credibility and leadership with regard to our regional and international partners and allies.

The Intelligence Community regularly considers the national security implications of U.S. actions and the possible responses of foreign adversaries. In light of the current serious risk of conflict, including nuclear escalation with North Korea, the implications of the president's recent communications are of particular interest and significance to the American people. We therefore further request that the assessment be public, to the extent possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich  
U.S. Senator



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator